

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Fort Don  
**Subject:** FW: Testing Results from IRS-CI Computer Rooms  
**Date:** Monday, June 13, 2016 7:54:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [Laguna Asbestos Executive Summary 061116.docx](#)  
[321611916\\_001.pdf](#)  
[321611916\\_coc.pdf](#)  
[321611918\\_001.pdf](#)  
[321611918\\_coc.pdf](#)

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Attached is the summary. Tests were ordered by CI.

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**From:** Fort Don  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2016 10:38 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Testing Results from IRS-CI Computer Rooms

(b)(6)

How does this reconcile with GSA determining that there were "actionable levels" of asbestos found in the building? Where these tests that CI ordered or GSA? Meeting with AWSS is at 11:30 this morning, so if you could get me something by then.  
Thanks

Don

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 11, 2016 11:45 AM  
**To:** Fort Don  
**Subject:** FW: Testing Results from IRS-CI Computer Rooms

(b)(6)

Don,

Great news! The test results for the particulate testing in the Laguna Niguel CI space came back negative for asbestos. None was detected. Employees are cleared to return to their work space.  
Thanks.

[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2016 7:07 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Testing Results from IRS-CI Computer Rooms

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[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

I just left you a message and wanted to follow up via email so that you underlying documents available to you as well. The test results for the particulate testing are in and all three tests came back NEGATIVE for asbestos.

We will also include the test results in the executive summary that Aimee is preparing.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,



(b)(6)

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2016 3:22 PM

(b)(6)

**To:** [Redacted]; [Redacted] Altamirano Mike A (CI); Anderson Natalie W;  
Bever Debra M

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Testing Results from IRS-CI Computer Rooms

Hot off the press. There were three tests conducted of the three most worrisome areas of particles dropping from the plenum thru ceiling grates. Two were conducted in the CIS room and one conducted in the COA room. ALL THREE Tests came back NEGATIVE for asbestos. None was detected.

We are cleared to return to the space, if you had vacated it. We will ask building maintenance to clean the particles up and we will still address the grates with GSA.

Thank you,



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(b)(6)

*and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.*

**From:** [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2016 2:14 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Testing Results from IRS-CI Computer Rooms

Thank you for the fast response!

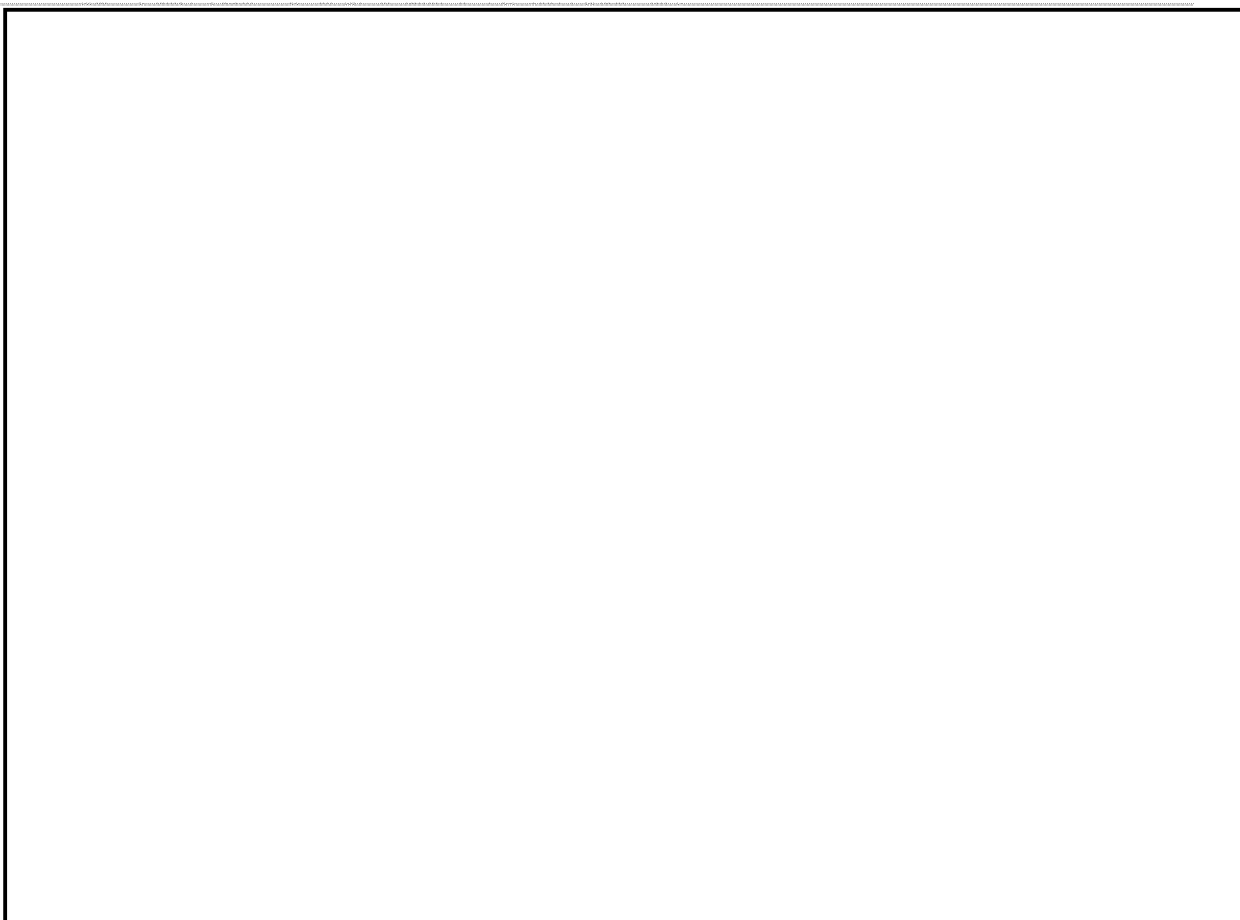
I will have [REDACTED] contact you shortly with the credit card info

(b)(6)

Thank you again,



(b)(6)



(b)(4)

(b)(6)

**From:** [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2016 1:16 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testing Results from IRS-CI Computer Rooms

(b)(6)

Hello [REDACTED] Team,

(b)(6)

I am so sorry, I forget the technician's names.. [REDACTED] were very professional, patient and helped answer any questions we had. They represent your business well. They came on Friday evening and conducted the three tests for us in IRS-CI-CIS-Room 3305 space and in our CI-COA Room 3314 space underneath the grates that open to the plenum. They had mentioned that it would take two days for the results to come in, but 2 weeks for the report. I was hoping by today that there would be some preliminary results that you can share with us? So I thought I would check in with you.

(b)(6)

You can email me, or give me a phone call on my cellphone anytime, at [REDACTED]. We are very grateful for your help and service this week.

(b)(6)

Also, how best shall we pay for the service? Who may I give the credit card info to?

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 03, 2016 11:19 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Testing in CI Computer Room

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(b)(6)

Thank you [REDACTED] for the quick response. You are the BEST!

(b)(6)

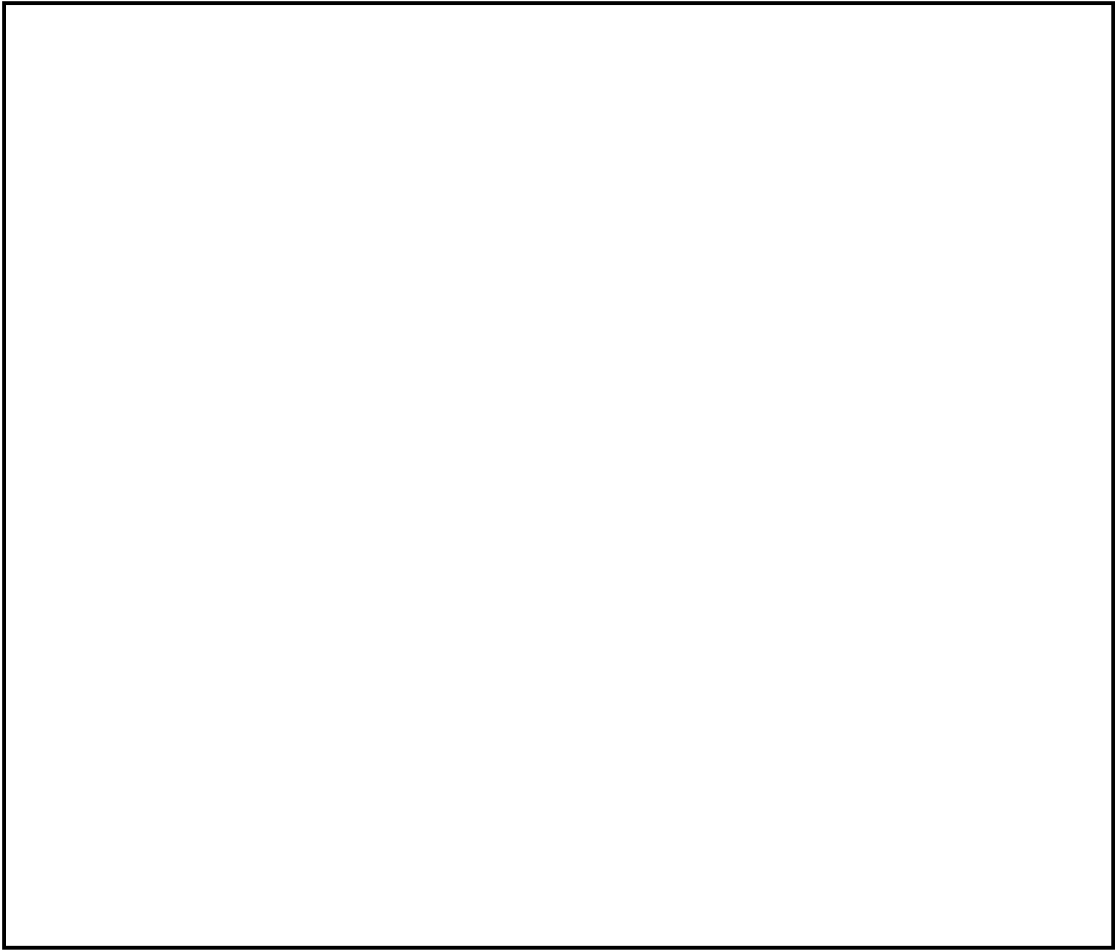
I had estimated the cost at \$900 after speaking with USCIS, but I can see that the big difference is the cost of the inspector. Our three tests were originally scheduled as part of a larger round of tests being conducted and paid for by USCIS, we merely wanted to carve out these three from the entire list that will be done at the same time as USCIS's on Monday. Is there any possibility that this info will change our quote, as someone will already be here on Monday at 5pm doing the larger group of testing? We just want our three sites to be carved out for us to pay for.

If it is over the \$900 that I had estimated to senior leadership, I will need to start a new approval chain. I wanted to check with you first to see if you could reduce the price to \$900 before I started over again here.

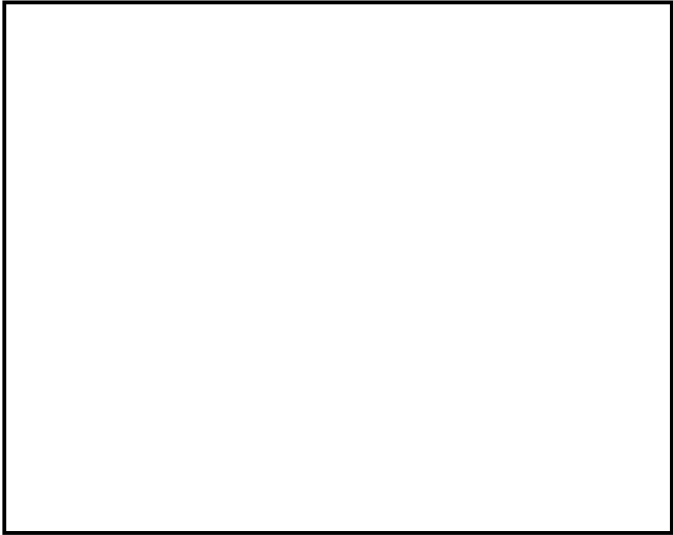
Thank you for your consideration.



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(b)(4)  
(b)(6)

909-322-9100

On Jun 3, 2016, at 10:12 AM [REDACTED]  
wrote:

(b)(6)

Sorry... I forgot to send to you the pictures...they tell a thousand words.

[REDACTED] need to move funding here and get approvals so that they are available before Monday. Once approved, it takes 24 hours for the funding to move. Are you able to give me a fast estimate on the cost for these three tests today?

(b)(6)

Thank you for your help,

[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 4:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Testing in CI Computer Room

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Thank you [REDACTED] for speaking with me just now. I understand that you are tentatively scheduled to conduct testing within the Chet Holifield Federal Building on Monday after 5pm for USCIS. I am hoping to piggy-back on that time, as suggested by USCIS. We have to sites within IRS-Criminal Investigation's space which both have significant particulate matter falling from grating which replaced ceiling tiles and is open to the plenum. I have attached photos of the particulate matter for you to see.

(b)(6)

Based on what little I understand and after spending some time and getting guidance from [REDACTED] I believe we wish to have the following testing:

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1. A Wipe Sample in the CI-CIS Room #3305
2. A Micro-Vac Sample in the CI-CIS Room #3305
3. A Wipe Sample in the CI-COA Room #3314

Will you please send me a quote for these three tests for asbestos? I will need to get authorization for the amount before work is started on Monday. Please see the attached photos for more information.

I can be reached at [redacted]

(b)(6)

Thank you,

[redacted]

(b)(6)

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 3:48 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Testing in CI Computer Room

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Thank you! I will get in touch with them now.

[redacted]

(b)(6)

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[redacted]

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(b)(6)

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 5:58:15 PM  
**To:** [redacted]

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Testing in CI Computer Room

Hello [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

Thank you for your help. I am looking for the contact information (a phone number and/or email) for the industrial hygienists that USCIS has been working with. That way our testing will be consistent with your manner of testing. We would like to conduct/pay for our own tests as well. I am very grateful.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 2:53 PM

(b)(6)

**To:** [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Testing in CI Computer Room

Hi [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

Wonderful- the right thing to do! I am copying [REDACTED] on this so he can pass you the info on our contractor. [REDACTED]

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(b)(6)

Would love to hear about what you find. Maybe they can come on Monday for you too.

Take care.

Wr,

[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 1:04:31 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Testing in CI Computer Room



Hello [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

I am so grateful for all of your help yesterday. I have found funding to conduct our own testing for the CI sites. Can you please share with me who you have been using as the contractor so that I may reach out to them? I would like to use the same vendor. Also, do you know the approximate cost?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

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**From:** Sheldon Geoffrey N  
[mailto:Geoffrey.N.Sheldon@irs.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 11:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testing in CI Computer Room

(b)(6)

Good Morning.

I just completed a call with (among others) the IRS IHs and the Facilities Chief for the Western U.S. In that call, I was instructed that to have USCIS test for asbestos in IRS space is inappropriate, and should not be allowed. IRS' position is that we will continue to work with GSA and FOH to have additional sites tested within IRS space. We are working with GSA to allow us to determine the location of the test sites.

Geoff Sheldon  
Senior Commissioner's Representative  
Southern California

(949) 389-4205 – Desk  
(949) 648-1579 – Blackberry

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<20160512\_171811\_resized.jpg>

<20160512\_171756\_resized.jpg>

<20160512\_171747\_resized.jpg>

## **Executive Summary**

### **Chet Holifield Federal Building**

#### **Background Information**

- The Laguna Niguel Chet Holifield Federal Building was completed in 1971. The building has over million square feet of space. Tenants include multiple federal agencies and the largest tenant is the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service. IRS has employees on the first, second and third floors. CI has two works groups and approximately 25 employees working at this Post of Duty on the second floor and DFO space on the third floor.
- The construction included sprayed-on fireproofing, which contains asbestos material. In February 2016, asbestos containing material located above the ceiling tiles was inadvertently disturbed. As a result, GSA commissioned an environmental consultant to conduct surface and air testing in 52 locations throughout the building.
- All of the 52 air sample results showed that airborne levels of asbestos are well below OSHA regulatory levels, indicating that the air is safe. However tests of particles on the back of the ceiling tiles showed “actionable” levels of asbestos and some tests were returned with actionable levels within the rented space (between the ceiling and floor).
- Visible particles are falling from ceiling grates that are open to the “plenum” where recent GSA testing determined “asbestos containing materials” (dust particles on the back side of ceiling tiles) have been discovered. Three of these grates are in the CI Computer Forensics Lab.
- CI has been communicating with SCR Sheldon and the other business units. Information sharing with NTEU has been ongoing.

#### **Testing Techniques & Outcomes**

- For asbestos, three types of samples are collected: bulk, wipe, and air.
- Four locations outside of IRS space (one occupied and three currently vacant) were identified with concentrations above “background” reading levels. GSA committed to cleaning these locations. GSA has also agreed to additional air tests, but they have declined to conduct additional bulk and wipe tests.
- Within the CI workspace and the Computer Forensic Lab, three areas were of particular concern because of the open ceiling grates and debris that was falling. CI retained an Industrial Hygienist to conduct two wipe and one micro-vac test. **On June 10, 2016, all three tests came back negative for asbestos containing material.**

#### **Impact on Employees/Operations**

- The long term impact of this incident on the employees of IRS is not known.

- This incident has caused work interruptions for employees of the impacted agencies. Several employees have expressed concern at the lack of information coming from GSA. CI's Computer Forensic Lab was unusable pending the outcome of the additional testing.
- Depending on the scope of GSA's remediation plan, it may be necessary to relocate CI and other IRS functions into "swing" space.

#### **GSA Action & Remediation Plans**

- GSA's near term action plan includes additional testing and cleaning. GSA will clean surfaces located beneath the ceiling area with test results above "background" levels.
- GSA will perform periodic air testing to ensure occupant safety.
- In the interim, GSA will manage the material in place through their Operation and Maintenance plan until funding is secured for a larger capital project to address and remediate the asbestos located in the areas above ceiling tiles.

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